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Agenda items 40, 61, 71 and 76
COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS
AND THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE
QUESTION OF CYPRUS
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
STRENGTHENING OF SECURITY AND COOPERATION
IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 14 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 13 May 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex which contains a letter of His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, dated 13 May 1998, would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 61, 71 and 76, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 13 May 1998 from the Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the letter dated 13 May 1998, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, concerning the recent suggestions of the Russian Federation on demilitarization, as contained in document A/52/876-S/1998/346 dated 27 April 1998.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its enclosure circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 40, 61, 71 and 76, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

Enclosure

Letter dated 13 May 1998 from the President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

Turkish Cypriot views and concerns on demilitarization have been repeatedly made known in the past and I had no intention of bringing this subject up especially at this crucial juncture in the Cyprus question, when all our efforts should be directed towards the creation of a new basis for dialogue. However, in the light of the recent suggestions of the Russian Federation on demilitarization, which have also been circulated as a United Nations document, I felt there was now a need to reiterate our views on this issue.

I wish to stress at the outset that, in accordance with the basic principles of the Cyprus negotiating process, only the Secretary-General of the United Nations, under whose auspices the negotiations are being conducted, has the mandate to make suggestions, in consultation with both sides, on any aspect of the Cyprus question. Demilitarization of Cyprus has never been on the agenda of the United Nations as a subject to be discussed and agreed to during the negotiating process but rather as an ultimate objective to be taken up by the parties after an overall settlement. In fact, paragraph 53 of the United Nations "set of ideas" states that "the demilitarization of the federal republic remains an objective". Naturally, the realization of this long-term objective will depend on the development of trust and confidence between the two peoples of the island.

Greek Cypriot insincerity and hypocrisy on this subject is evident from its amassing of weapons; its military preparations carried out within the context of the so-called Joint Military Doctrine, including the opening of the Paphos air base for the use of the Greek Air Force and the impending deployment of the sophisticated S-300 missiles on the island. With these endeavours, the Greek Cypriot side has demonstrated that it is bent on escalating the conflict rather than resolving it. In fact, we have no doubt that the Greek Cypriot-inspired ideas of addressing the issue of demilitarization prior to a settlement are aimed at diluting and eventually doing away with the Treaties of Guarantee and of Alliance, the only effective instruments which prevented the Greek-Greek Cypriot front from taking over Cyprus.

Indeed, there is still no indication that the Greek Cypriots have abandoned their aim of converting Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot state. On the contrary, everything they say or do indicates that the Greek Cypriots feel that they have finally come to the point of consolidating and strengthening their usurped status as the "sole government" in Cyprus and becoming the supreme rulers of the island through membership in the European Union.

If the Russian Federation genuinely desires to help ease the tension on the island, it is our firm view that it can do so by halting the sale of heavy and

sophisticated armaments to the Greek Cypriot administration, such as the T-80U battle tanks and the S-300 missile system.

(Signed) Rauf R. DENKTAŞ
President